

ARIZONA Planning Bulletin



Agua Fria National Monument Plan &
Bradshaw-Harquahala Management Plan Revision

Bureau of Land Management • Phoenix Field Office

September 2002, Vol. 1

What's In A Name?

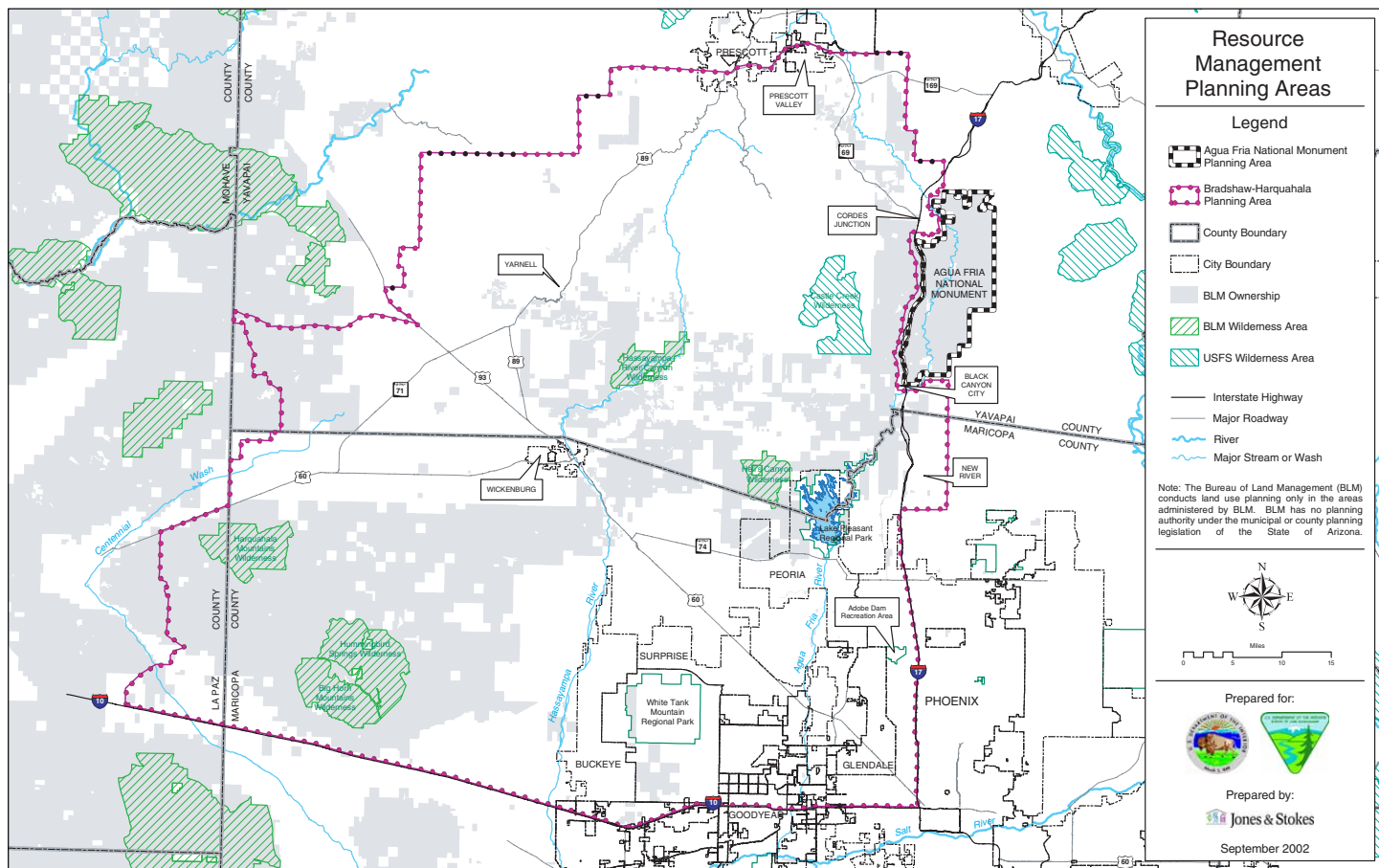
The two Planning Areas for this effort encompass over three million acres, requiring two separate planning efforts and one combined environmental impact statement (EIS). In order to initiate the planning, the areas have been identified as:

- The "Agua Fria National Monument Planning Area" which requires a separate plan as a result of its designation as a National Monument; and
- The "Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area" which is a plan update for the area north and west of the Phoenix metropolitan area.

These areas are identified in the map on this page. If you have suggestions for names for the planning areas that would be more appropriate and more descriptive, please let us know on the enclosed "Planning Worksheet" form, or call the BLM Phoenix Field Office at the number found on the back page of this Bulletin. Thanks for your interest and ideas!

Para una edición en español de este boletín, por favor llame a BLM al teléfono 623-580-5500.

For a Spanish language version of this bulletin, please contact BLM at 623-580-5500.





What is Being Done?

As part of the management planning process, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. The EIS will assess possible environmental and social effects of different management alternatives for public lands within the two planning areas.

This bulletin is the first in a series that will tell you more about the planning process and how you can get involved. We hope that the following information will encourage you to participate in developing the future management strategies for these areas.

The enclosed Planning Worksheets are one way we will gather your ideas. Another is through a series of public meetings to be held on dates and locations listed on the back page of this bulletin. We strongly encourage you to attend! Most importantly, we want to hear from you. Thank you for helping us plan for the future of our important public lands.

Why are these Resource Management Plans Needed?

The Agua Fria National Monument was created on January 11, 2000, with the signing by the President of Proclamation 7263. The monument contains one of the most significant systems of late prehistoric sites in the American Southwest. In addition to its rich record of human history, the monument contains other objects of scientific interest, including a diversity of vegetation communities, a wide array of sensitive wildlife species, and native fish populations. The purpose of the monument designation is to protect these sensitive natural and cultural resources.

The proclamation designated more than 71,000 acres to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for this purpose. Establishment of the national monument necessitates development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The area in and around Phoenix has experienced significant population growth in recent years. Since 1990, Maricopa County's population has increased nearly 35 percent. During this same period, the City of Peoria has annexed more than 59,000 acres, including more than 16,000 acres of BLM administered land and the City of Phoenix has annexed more than 19,000 acres, including nearly 700 acres of BLM administered land. These are only two of the growing cities and towns expanding their borders toward and into the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area. The increased pressure on public lands for recreation, rights-of-way, mineral rights, and other purposes resulting from population increases requires BLM to readdress its land use plan decisions.



Public Involvement in the Planning Process

BLM is committed to providing opportunities for the community to engage in meaningful participation in the resource management planning and environmental review process. Specifically, BLM will work closely with communities and interested citizen groups to identify management decisions best suited to the needs of the public. The basic approach of BLM's public participation process is to reach out to as many population groups as possible and to do so in an equitable and timely manner. Public participation is the only real way to identify the needs of a wide variety of citizens, the private sector, and interest groups. The BLM will also seek participation from tribal, state and local governments. In order to create a shared vision for the planning areas, BLM will use an interactive, dynamic process that will allow you to participate in developing alternative concepts or visions for managing public lands. One example of this innovative planning

process is the use of a geographic information system (GIS), which will combine available map data from Federal and State agencies, as well as private groups. The data will be available to the general public, local and tribal governments, and educational institutions. The GIS will be used to graphically display alternative solutions and also overlay multiple concepts for review and discussion.

The planning team has held many informal meetings with communities in and near the planning area over the past couple of years. These discussions have resulted in a collaborative relationship with various community groups that BLM will continue to develop throughout the planning process. Future meetings will bring members of the public together to consider various land management scenarios for the planning area.

Scoping Meeting Schedule

In keeping with the requirements of federal law and regulation, BLM has developed a comprehensive "scoping" process. "Scoping" is a term from the National Environmental Policy Act that describes the process by which federal agencies make sure that any action has allowed for early and open public involvement. Scoping meetings will be held at the following locations, dates, and times:

Saturday, September 28

Flagstaff, 1-3 p.m.
Museum of Northern Arizona
Branigar/Chase Discovery Center
3101 North Fort Valley Road

Tuesday, October 1

Dewey-Humboldt-Spring Valley
7-9 p.m.
Mayer High School Gymnasium
17300 E. Muledeer Drive

Wednesday, October 2

Black Canyon City, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Black Canyon Community Center/
Albins Civic Center
19055 South K-Mine Road

Thursday, October 3

Yarnell, 1:30-5 p.m.
Senior Citizens Center
22302 South Highway 29

Saturday, October 5

Castle Hot Springs, 10 a.m.-noon.
Champie Schoolhouse

Monday, October 7

Buckeye, 7-9 p.m.
Buckeye Community Center
201 Centre Avenue

Tuesday, October 8

Phoenix, 7-9 p.m.
Paradise Valley Community Center
17402 North 40th
(40th Street & Bell Road)

Wednesday, October 9

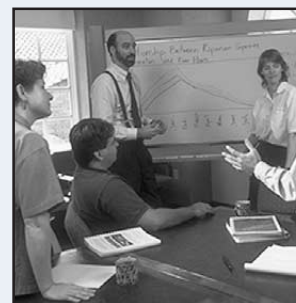
Wickenburg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Wickenburg Community Center
120 North Valentine Street

Monday, October 14

Prescott-Prescott Valley-Chino Valley
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Yavapai College Performance Hall
Yavapai College
1100 East Sheldon Street

Wednesday, October 16

Peoria, 7-9 p.m.
Peoria Community Center
8335 West Jefferson
(2 blocks south of Peoria
Avenue on 83rd)

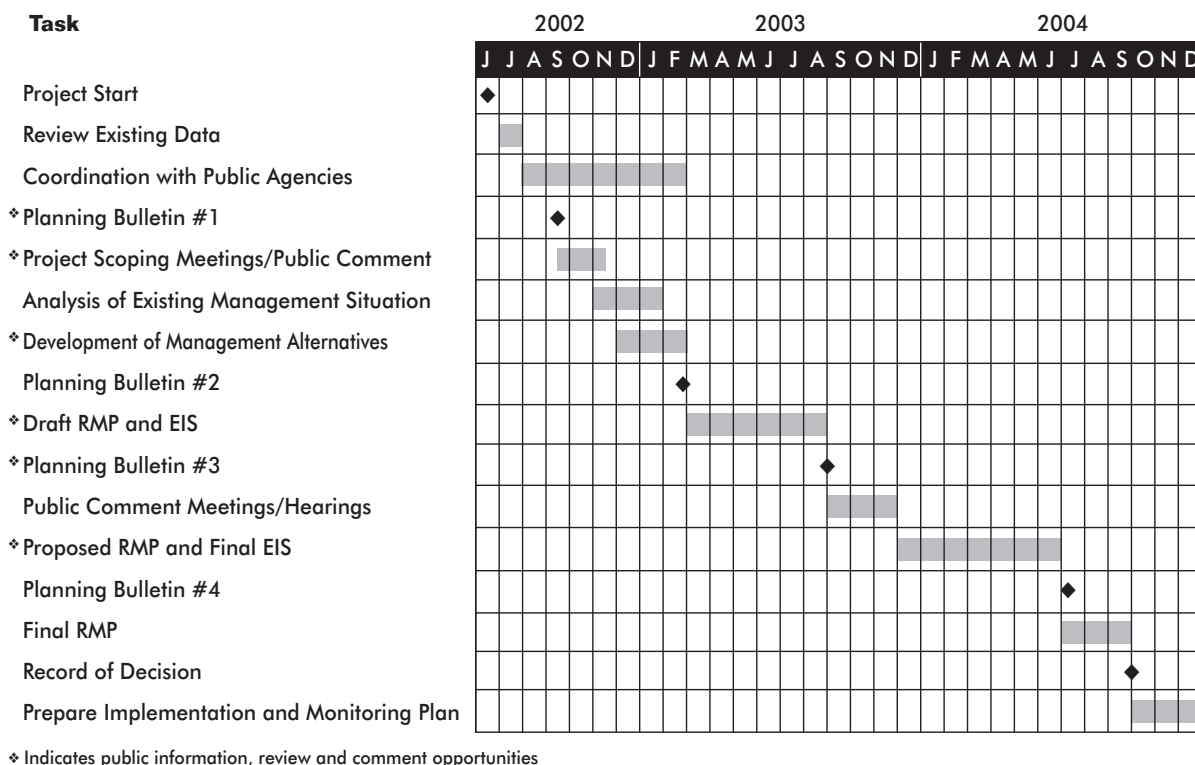


**If you have special needs,
please contact BLM at
623/580-5500**

Overall Project Schedule

The planning process is expected to take about three years and will follow the key steps listed below:

Schedule for Agua Fria National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP Revision and Combined Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



How You Can Remain Informed

If you have access to the Internet, you can follow the progress of the planning process on the BLM's Home Page (www.az.blm.gov). This site includes the text of the President's Proclamation establishing the National Monument, relevant documents for review, and provides information regarding upcoming public meetings.

While the planning team welcomes your comment and suggestions at all times, please remember that your input is particularly important in the early stages of the planning process when the team is developing the management options. Scoping comments will be accepted through November 15, 2002.

Thank you for your interest in this important process. We look forward to working with you. For further information, please contact:

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